

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend paragraphs **0038**, **0039**, **0055**, **0057**, **0063** and **0064** of the specification as follows:

**[0038]** A patient **102** may additionally seek healthcare services from a hospital **112** and may generally interact with hospital employees such as registration personnel **120** and scheduling personnel **118**. Both registration personnel **120** and scheduling personnel **118** may have access to terminals or personal computers **113** and **115** that are connected to the hospital database and information system server(s) **116**. The patient **102** may also interface with a kiosk ~~**120**~~ **117**, which could be a terminal or personal computer that is connected to the hospital database and information system server(s) **116**. The hospital database and information system server(s) **116** may also be connected to a communications network **114**.

**[0039]** A patient **102** may also seek healthcare services from a remote healthcare site **122** and interface with registration staff ~~**120**~~ **125** using a terminal or personal computer **123**. The patient **102** may optionally access a kiosk **124** for his/her healthcare service needs. Each of the terminal or personal computer **123** and the optional kiosk **124** may be connected to a communications network **114**.

**[0055]** A hospital system **340** preferably provides patient information **306** to the OPSI system **300**. The OPSI system **300** may return an event status ~~**326**~~ **327**, insurance information **316**, a medical necessity determination **304**, a physician signature **324** and/or appointment information **310** to the hospital system **340**.

[0057] In a common scenario, the patient 102 meets with his/her physician 108 on a particular health concern. Patient information 306 is retrieved and reviewed by the physician 108. Upon completion of the examination, the physician may recommend additional procedures such as an X-ray, MRI, or other tests performed at a hospital 112. The physician's office 106 submits a request via the OPSI system 300 including patient information 306, the physician's signature 324, and ordering physician information 314. The patient 102 may place a scheduling request 346 for preferred times and dates for the procedure. The OPSI system 300 may then transmit the patient information 306 to one or more of, for example: (i) the medical necessity system 302 where the medical necessity determination 304 is made and returned to the physician's system 342; (ii) the scheduling system 330 where the requested dates 308 may be considered before confirming an appointment 310 to the patient system 344 and the physician system 342; (iii) the third party payer system 332 where insurance information 316 is confirmed; and (iv) the hospital system 340 where event status information ~~326~~ 327, insurance information 316, the medical necessity determination 304, and appointment information 310 may be available. As information is passed between a plurality of independent databases and information systems, the OPSI system 300 may save pertinent information in a repository providing relevant information to all affected systems.

[0063] FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate the preferred OPSI procedure crosswalk flow. The crosswalk flow describes a method of associating orders with scheduling and patient information. At the start 500, a user may enter specific classification and procedure information 502, which may be placed in a temporary storage location 504. The medical necessity test 400 and the eligibility/referral (insurance information) test 506 may then be performed. Upon

completing these tests, an appointment alias 508 may be referenced. A logical test may be performed to determine if an appointment is necessary 510. If an appointment is not necessary 512, patient information may be displayed or printed 514. In this case, the patient need not be scheduled in advance because a walk-in procedure is permitted. A preferred flow for this sequence follows in FIG. 5B where the patient walks in 558 564 and signs in 560 566 to the OPSI system 300. The OPSI user may enter that the appointment is booked for today at the current time (today and now) 562 568, and the appointment may be booked 564 570. The registration 566 572 and any physician orders 568 574 may then be processed. Returning to FIG. 5A, if an appointment is necessary 512, the system may ask the patient whether he/she wishes to book an appointment 518. If the patient decides to book an appointment, a list of appointment times available for the requested procedures may be displayed 520. The OPSI user may select whether or not to restrict the appointment 522. In some situations, it may be advantageous or necessary to perform certain procedures at specific locations. If such a requirement does not exist, the user may choose to not restrict the location at which the procedures are performed 524. The user may then select times and locations for one or more appointment(s) 526. The system defaults for the procedures being on the same day at the same location. If the user opts to have one or more appointment(s) on the same day at the same location 526, the user may select the desired date and/or time range 528, as well as view available appointments 530 for bundled services (e.g., procedures having a specific sequence or time order). This information may then be displayed 532. If the user decides to have one or more appointment(s) on different days or at different locations 526, a user may select the desired date and time range 534 and view available appointments for unbundled procedures 536, and that information may then be displayed 538. Once the appointment(s) are displayed (532 and 538), a user may select an appointment 540.

After the OPSI user selects an appointment, the appointment may be booked in a healthcare information system **548**, and the patient information **550** may be printed. The remaining sequence in this embodiment is illustrated in FIG. 5B beginning at **552**. When the patient presents himself/herself **554 560** for the procedure, the registration may be processed **566 572** and the physician orders may be processed **568 574**. If the patient does not present himself/herself, the appointment may be recorded as a no show **556 562**.

[0064] Returning to FIG. 5A, if the OPSI user does not select an appointment **540**, the user may determine if every appointment should be selected **542**. If the OPSI user has selected times and locations for all appointments requiring scheduling, the appointment(s) may be booked in a healthcare information system **548**, and the patient information **550** may be printed. The remaining sequence is illustrated in FIG. 5B beginning at **552**. When the patient presents himself/herself **554 560** for the procedure, the registration may be processed **566 572** and the physician orders may be processed **568 574**. If the patient does not present himself/herself, the appointment may be recorded as a no show **556 562**.